

Message Text

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ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /058 W
-----032918 221000Z /16

P 220827Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO FAA YOKOTA PRIORITY

13AF CLARK PRIORITY

CUBI NAS PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2705

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

CASF (JACI) PRIORITY

CINCPAC/JA PRIORITY

CINCPACAF/HAI PRIORITY

CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

CINCPACREPHIL PRIORITY

FAA GUAM PRIORITY

FAA HONOLULU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 11325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, RP

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE FOR FAA PLANES INTO PHILIPPINES/AERO CLUBS
MAC FLIGHTS

REF: (A) MANILA 10822, DTG R140647Z JUL 77 (NOTAL)

(B) MANILAN 9175, DTG PR150625Z JUN 77 (NOTAL)

(C) 13AF MSG, DTG P220045Z JUN 77 (NOTAL)

(D) STATE 148705, DTG P250139Z JUN 77 (NOTAL);

(E) HOPACAF MSG, DTG R271945Z JUN 77 (NOTAL)

1. ON 20 JULY 1977, EMBASSY LEGAL OFFICER (LO) LTC HITT CALLED
ON OPERATIONS OFFICER COLONEL HERNANDO AND COMMANDER, FIRST AIR
DIVISION GENERAL BUENO TO DISCUSS CLEARANCE OF FAA AIRCRAFT INTO
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PHILIPPINES. LO DREW ON RATIONALE CONTAINED IN REFS WHICH HAD
BEEN ADVANCED AT PREVIOUS WEEK'S MEETING ATTENDED BY EMBOFF JOE
WILLIAMS, LO AND COLONEL HERNANDO ALONE. AFTER ROUGHLY
ONE HOUR, BUENO STATED HE HAD MADE DECISION NOT TO
INSIST ON DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCES FOR FAA AIRCRAFT. HE
STATED HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND U.S. RESISTANCE TO SEVEN-
DAY DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE WITH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR

EMERGENCY CASES SINCE THAT WOULD MEET PRACTICAL NEEDS OF MILITARY. NEVERTHELESS, HE AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH PRIOR PRACTICE (EMBASSY LETTER TO PAF) AND WAS WILLING EVEN TO ACCEPT A PROPOSED STREAMLINED MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CLEARANCE PROCEDURE. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT FAA FLIGHTS MUST STRICTLY ADHER TO ESTABLISHED CLEARANCE PRACTICES (AS HAS BEEN DONE IN RECENT MONTHS) OR GOP WOULD CLAMP DOWN. BY THIS HE PRESUMABLY MEANT FULL DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE AT GOP PACE FOR ALL FAA FLIGHTS. EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO RE-EMPHASIZE THAT FAA OPERATIONS AUTHORITIES AND PILOTS CANNOT BE TOO CAREFUL IN THIS REGARD. WE BELIEVE CLEARANCE PROCEDURES WILL LOOSEN UP WITH TIME, BUT FOR THE MOMENT GOP AUTHORITIES ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO SHORT CUTS WHICH MIGHT APPEAR TO CHALLENGE THEIR AUTHORITY TO CONTROL PHILIPPINE AIR SPACE.

2. DURING DISCUSSION, BUENO BROUGHT UP MAC CHARTER FLIGHTS STATING THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY COLONEL FAROLAN, NEW CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER, WHO HAD SUGGESTED MAC CHARTER FLIGHTS LAND AT MANILA INSTEAD OF CLARK FOR CUSTOMS, IMMIGRATION AND QUANTINE (CIQ) PURPOSES.

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TO FAA YOKOTA PRIORITY
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CUBI NAS PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2706
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
CASF (JACI) PRIORITY
CINCPAC/JA PRIORITY
CINCPACAF/HAI PRIORITY
CINCPACFLT PRIORITY
CINCPACREPHIL PRIORITY
FAA GUAM PRIORITY
FAA HONOLULU PRIORITY

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IF THIS SUGGESTION HAD BEEN ACTED ON, QUESTION OF NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE MIGHT ALSO HAVE BEEN RESURFACED. BUENO STATED HE HAD TAKEN UP CUDGEL FOR U.S. AND PERSUADED FAROLAN THAT INSTEAD OF EXPENSIVE AND TIME-CONSUMING PROCESS OF EXTRA LANDING, FAROLAN SHOULD SEEK TO ESTABLISH CIQ AT CLARK. SINCE THEN, BUENO, HAD HEARD NOTHING MORE. FYI - SEVERAL WEEKS AGO MYSTERIOUS ARTICLE APPEARED IN LOCAL PAPER QUOTING FAROLAN AS ANNOUNCING NEW AGREEMENT WITH BASES TO ESTABLISH CIQ AT CLARK. BASIS FOR THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS UNKNOWN. END FYI. LO NOTED THAT QUESTION RAISED BY FAROLAN WOULD NO DOUBT BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED DURING MBA NEGOTIATIONS.

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3. BUENO ALSO BROUGHT UP AERO CLUBS, RUEFULLY REMARKING THAT A BEAUTIFUL ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT FOR CONTINUED OPERATION BUT HAD COME UNGLUED WHEN U.S. PROPOSED MDB DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER. FYI - AT TIME OF PROPOSAL, PAF HAD INFORMALLY CONCURRED IN VALUE OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS. END FYI. ACCORDING TO BUENO, U.S. PROPOSAL NECESSITATED BRIEFING CHIEF OF STAFF ESPINO (MDB MILITARY CO-CHAIRMAN) WHICH INCLUDED DFA OPINION THAT AERO CLUBS WERE NOT SANCTIONED BY MBA. CHIEF OF STAFF MADE SNAP JUDGMENT THAT AERO CLUB OPERATIONS MUST BE TERMINATED BECAUSE OF DFA OPINION CONCLUSIVE ON MILITARY AUTHORITIES. COMMENT: CROCODILE TEARS SHED BY BUENO AREA SUSPECTED ATTEMPT TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM ESPINO'S DECISION WHICH BUENO UNDOUBTEDLY SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED. HAD ESPINO DECISION BEEN OTHERWISE, SUSPECT BUENO WOULD HAVE LOOKED ELSEWHERE FOR EXCUSE TO CURTAIL AERO CLUB OPERATIONS. IT IS RUMORED THAT BUENO OWNS STOCK IN PHIL AIR WHICH RECENTLY OFFERED TO TAKE OVER MANAGEMENT TO AERO CLUBS. REMARKS ALSO PROBABLY INTENDED TO POINT OUT DANGER OF GOING TO MDB ON FAA CLEARANCE WHICH HAD BEEN SUGGESTED AS A POSSIBILITY.

END COMMENT

4. DECISION ON FAA IF IMPLEMENTED WILL BE QUITE GENEROUS ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO TRANSISTING AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH BASES. APPROVAL OF MILITARY-TO-MILITARY CLEARANCE PROCEDURES MAY EVEN BE EXAMPLE OF COMING OUT BETTER THAN WE WENT IN ON THIS KIND OF PROBLEM. IT CANNOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED HOWEVER, THAT, AS BUENO POINTED OUT A MINIMUM OF FIVE TIMES DURING DISCUSSION, FAA AIRCRAFT MUST RPTMUST COMPLY WITH LETTER

OF ALL PERTINENT RULES AND REGULATIONS WITHOUT DEVIATION.
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HERNANDO, WHOSE SUGGESTION OF DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE WAS
OVERRULED BY HIS BOSS, WILL BE PARTICULARLY ATTENTIVE
TO SUCH COMPLIANCE. REQUESTS FOR CLEARANCE SHOULD BE
MADE AS FAR IN ADVANCE AND WITH AS LITTLE SUBSEQUENT
MODIFICATION AS POSSIBLE.

5. ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD CONTACT EMBOFF JOE
WILLIAMS FOR ADVICE ON TRANSITION TO MILITARY-TO-MILITARY
CLEARANCE PROCEDURES WHICH SHOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE
1 AUGUST 1977. AT PRESENT IT APPEARS THAT WORKABLE
SYSTEM WOULD INVOLVE NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT TO
13AF WHICH WOULD PREPARE LETTER OF MESSAGE AS APPROPRIATE
FOR 13AF AIR DEFENSE UNIT AT NICHOLS TO DELIVER TO
COLOCATED PAF FIRST AIR DIVISION HEADQUARTERS.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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